

Luminescent pro-nitroxide lanthanide complexes for the detection of reactive oxygen species

Richard Barré, Damien Mouchel Dit Leguerrier, Lionel Fédèle, Daniel Imbert,

Jennifer K. Molloy, Fabrice Thomas

To cite this version:

Richard Barré, Damien Mouchel Dit Leguerrier, Lionel Fédèle, Daniel Imbert, Jennifer K. Molloy, et al.. Luminescent pro-nitroxide lanthanide complexes for the detection of reactive oxygen species. Chemical Communications, 2020, 56 (3), pp.435-438. $10.1039/c9cc06524e$. hal-02874020

HAL Id: hal-02874020 <https://hal.science/hal-02874020>

Submitted on 13 Nov 2020

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

[View Article Online](https://doi.org/10.1039/c9cc06524e) [View Journal](https://pubs.rsc.org/en/journals/journal/CC)

ChemComm

Chemical Communications

Accepted Manuscript

This article can be cited before page numbers have been issued, to do this please use: R. Barre, D. Mouchel dit Leguerrier, L. Fedele, D. Imbert, J. K. Molloy and F. Thomas*, Chem. Commun.*, 2019, DOI: 10.1039/C9CC06524E.

This is an Accepted Manuscript, which has been through the Royal Society of Chemistry peer review process and has been accepted for publication.

Accepted Manuscripts are published online shortly after acceptance, before technical editing, formatting and proof reading. Using this free service, authors can make their results available to the community, in citable form, before we publish the edited article. We will replace this Accepted Manuscript with the edited and formatted Advance Article as soon as it is available.

You can find more information about Accepted Manuscripts in the [Information for Authors.](http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/Journals/guidelines/AuthorGuidelines/JournalPolicy/accepted_manuscripts.asp)

Please note that technical editing may introduce minor changes to the text and/or graphics, which may alter content. The journal's standard [Terms & Conditions](http://www.rsc.org/help/termsconditions.asp) and the [Ethical guidelines s](http://www.rsc.org/publishing/journals/guidelines/)till apply. In no event shall the Royal Society of Chemistry be held responsible for any errors or omissions in this Accepted Manuscript or any consequences arising from the use of any information it contains.

rsc.li/chemcomm

COMMUNICATION

Luminescent pro-Nitroxide Lanthanide Complexes for the Detection of Reactive Oxygen Species †

Received 00th January 20xx, Accepted 00th January 20xx

Richard Barré,^a Damien Mouchel dit Leguerrier,^a Lionel Fedele,^b Daniel Imbert, *b,c Jennifer K. Molloy,*^a Fabrice Thomas*^a

DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x

The DOTA-based ligand H3L (5) appended with a pro-nitroxide moiety has been synthesized. The europium and ytterbium complexes 5Ln show metal-centred luminescence. They reacts with ROS in aqueous media to give a transient iminonitroxide and a stable nitronylnitroxide radical authenticated by EPR, with change in luminescence.

The term reactive oxygen species (ROS) points to a family of molecules which are generated upon incomplete reduction of molecular dioxygen.¹ For humans, ROS play essential roles in several physiological processes such as signalling and immune response.1, ² Their uncontrolled production can however leads to oxidative stress, 3 which is believed to be at the origin of ageing, 4 but also major pathologies, including cancers, 5 diabetes,⁶ neurodegenerative⁷ and cardiac⁸ diseases. The most common ex-vivo detection methods for ROS employ spin traps in combination with EPR spectroscopy 9 or fluorescence measurements.¹⁰ The first method is based on the irreversible reaction of short-life radicals (OH⁺, O_2 ⁺⁻) with a nitrone to produce distinct paramagnetic nitroxide adducts whose stability is sufficient for allowing their detection by EPR spectroscopy. Yet based on a chemical reaction with ROS the second method produce a fluorescent species (switch on) or conversely induces a quenching of the initial fluorescence of the probe (switch off).

The design of new detection methods for ROS is an area of constant development, with applications in the field of physiology and medicine.^{11, 12} Few lanthanide complexes have been developped for this purpose.13-22 Some are based on a sacrificial reaction with ROS that modulate the energy transfer to the metal ion, 16 , 20 , 21 while others rely on the distinct sensitization of the metal in the presence of dioxygen.^{13, 15} The ROS can be indirectly probed by determining the level of

gluthation¹⁹ or monitoring the redox status. We recently designed lanthanide complexes incorporating redox-active phenolate groups as such reporters.23-25 The starting complexes exhibit the narrow emission bands typical of felements, with long half-life of the excited states and the possibility to tune the wavelength of the emission, both being advantageous in biomedical imaging.²⁶ The oxidation of the coordinating phenolates into phenoxyl radicals results in a quenching of the lanthanide-based luminescence, which reaches 90 % in some instances, allowing for a sensitive detection.23-25 Following our continuous interest in using proradical lanthanide complexes to monitor oxidative redox events we herein report an alternative approach based on the trapping of ROS^{14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27-29} by α -iminohydroxylamine/ α aminonitrone-appended ligands (**5**, Scheme 1 and 2) coordinated to Eu^{III} and Yb^{III} ions. The starting complexes exhibit a sizeable lanthanide-based luminescence and no EPR signal at room temperature. Upon reaction with OH^{*}, lanthanide-nitroxide radical complexes are formed. They are easily detected by EPR spectroscopy and experience quenching of the metal-centered luminescence. COMMUNICATION
 **Luminescent pro-Nitroxide Lanthanide Complexes for the

Detection of Reactive Oxygen Species** Analysis and the complexe is the complexe of the state of the state Complexe and Manuscripte Complexe and Manu

Scheme 1. Simplified synthetic route towards the lanthanide complexes (Ln =Eu^{III}; Yb^{III})

The synthesis of ligand **5** is based on the coupling of a pyridinenitronyl nitroxide conjugate **3** with the tris-protected DOTA derivative (DO3AtBu: 1,4,7- tris(*tert*-butoxycarbonylmethyl)- 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane), followed by deprotection with TFA, as depicted in Scheme 1. The precursor **3** is prepared in two steps from the 6-(chloromethyl)-pyridine-2-

a.Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, DCM, F-38000 Grenoble, France. Email:

Jennifer.Molloy@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr; [Fabrice.Thomas@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr.](mailto:fabrice.thomas@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr) b.Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CEA, CNRS, INAC-SyMMES, 38000 Grenoble, France

c.Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CEA, CNRS, BIG-LCBM, 38000 Grenoble, France

[†] R.B., D. M. d. L. and L. F. contributed equally to this work.

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Details synthetic protocols and characterizations. See DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x

COMMUNICATION Journal Name

carboxaldehyde (**1**) by condensation with 1,1',2,2' tetramethylethylenebis(hydroxylamine) to afford **2** (Fig. S1, S2), followed by oxidation with NaIO $_4$. Nucleophilic substitution on the DO3AtBu and subsequent deprotection with TFA affords **4** in a total yield of 84 %. The ligand **5** (Fig. S4-S7) was characterized by 1 H/ 15 N HMBC in D₂O. It shows two ¹⁵N resonances at 132 ppm and 185 ppm, which are assigned to the imine and hydroxylamine, based on similarity of chemical shifts with the bis(hydroxylamine) **2** (Fig. S3,S8). 30,31

Scheme 2. Tautomeric forms of the pro-nitroxide unit and its reaction with OH•

This demonstrates that the pro-radical unit is best described as a α -iminohydroxylamine rather than the aminonitrone tautomer (scheme 2). The ligand was next metallated by the appropriate lanthanide salt (Eu3+ , Yb3+) to give **5Eu** and **5Yb**, respectively. The mass spectra of **5Eu** and **5Yb** (Fig. S10, S11) show the expected molecular peaks for the formation of complexes with 1:1 (M:L) stoichiometry. Both complexes are paramagnetic due to the lanthanide ion but do not show EPR resonance at 298 K due to the fast relaxation of the metal.

Figure 1. Normalized emission spectra (λ_{ex} = 325 nm) of (black) **5Eu** and (blue) **5Yb** in 0.03 M aqueous solution and *T* = 293 K.

Complexes **5Eu** and **5Yb** proved to be luminescent in the visible and NIR region, respectively, as depicted in Fig. 1. The emission spectrum of **5Eu** (black line) deserves specific comments since it is sensitive to the metal ion environment. Thus, upon excitation in the ligand ${}^{1}\pi\pi^{*}$ state at 293 K, the emission spectrum displays the characteristic Eu $(^5D_0 \rightarrow ^7F_J$, J = 0-4) transitions. The ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_0$ transition, which is unique for a given chemical environment, displays an intense and fairly symmetrical main band at 17 265 $cm⁻¹$ (Fig. S14) that is reminiscent of a site within a C_n (or C_{nv}) symmetry. This spectrum may be interpreted in terms of a low-symmetry around Eu^{III}, derived from a higher pseudo tetragonal symmetry. The transition to ${}^{7}F_1$ displays three components

with a total splitting of 193 cm^{-1} . The two [components](https://doi.org/10.1039/c9cc06524e) appearing at low energy can be though based arising from 5the splitting (57 cm⁻¹) of the ${}^{7}F_{1}(E_{g})$ sub-level in tetragonal symmetry induced by the distortion of the coordination polyhedron. The ${}^5D_0\rightarrow {}^7F_2$ transition displays three bands close in energy. The emission spectrum is dominated by this transition, as expected for a low symmetry around the Eu $^{\text{III}}$ ion. Interestingly, the ${}^{5}D_{0} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{4}$ transition shows only five components. The luminescence data can be further used to calculate the number of co-ordinated water molecules *q* in the coordination sphere of Eu^{III} using the emission lifetimes (analyzing wavelength sets on the maximum of the ${}^{5}D_{0} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{2}$ transition) in H_2O and D_2O (0.57(1) and 1.04(2) ms, respectively). Empirical correlations have been indeed established.³² A refined equation 1 proposed for complexes of Eu^{III} in water with $q \le 1$ and reevaluated for the absence of alcoholic O-H, amine N-H and amide N-H oscillators in the first coordination sphere of Eu^{III} has been used. Chemcommon **Accepted Manuscript Published on 25 November 2019.** The specific distribution on the Doisine Alpes INP on 25 November 2019. Downloaded by University Columb 2:35 November 2019. Downloaded by University Columb

 $q = 1.11(\Delta k_{\text{obs}} - 0.31)$ (1) $where k_{obs} = 1/\tau_{obs}$, $\Delta k_{obs} = k_{obs} (H_2 O) - k_{obs} (D_2 O)$

For **5Eu** we calculated a *q* value of 0.5. We ruled out the possibility that this half integer value originates from a mixture of complexes (with and without coordinated water), since the luminescence decay is perfectly monoexponential. We instead hypothesize that one water molecule is either coordinated to the metal and immobilized by hydrogen bonding interactions or it is present in the second coordination sphere close to the hydroxylamine.³³ Finally, the luminescence spectrum of the ytterbium complex **5Yb** displays a classical metal-centered multiline pattern in the NIR range 949 – 1030 nm, which is assigned to the ${}^{4}F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{11/2}$ transition. Altogether these results for **5Eu** and **5Yb** confirm that the pronitroxide appended pyridine moiety acts as an antenna for sensitizing *f*-metal ions, whatever their emission range (visible and NIR).

Figure 2. Isotropic EPR spectra of 5Yb (0.03 M) in the presence of 10 mM H_2O_2 and 1 mM FeSO₄ in H₂O. After (a) 10 min; (b) 6 days. Microwave power 1.7 mW, Freq. 9.42 GHz; Mod. Freq. 100 KHz, Amp. 0.2 mT. *T* = 293 K. The black lines represent the experimental spectra, the dotted lines the simulated spectra.

We next examined the ability of the complexes **5Eu** and **5Yb** to react with the most unstable and toxic ROS, the OH^{*} radical.³⁴ The hydroxyl radical was generated by using a classical Fenton system (aqueous FeSO₄ in the presence of H_2O_2) and the reaction was monitored by EPR spectroscopy in aqueous media (Fig. 2, 3 and S16-S30). During the first minutes we

Journal Name COMMUNICATION

observed the growth of a seven-line pattern of intensity 1:1:2:1:2:1:1 (Fig. 2). This signal reached its maximum intensity at about 30 minutes (Fig. 3), after which it slowly decreased (hour to day time scale). It could be simulated by considering the coupling of the electron spin with two inequivalent $14N$ nucleus and the hyperfine coupling (HFC) constants 13 and 25 MHz. The overall shape of the spectrum and the measured HFC unambiguously show the pro-radical unit is converted into an α -iminonitroxide moiety (scheme 2)^{35, 36} upon reaction with the hydroxyl radical.

Interestingly, the α -iminonitroxide is not the only species that forms upon reaction with the hydroxyl radical OH^{*}. After one hour new features are detected, which increase in intensity at the expense of the initial α -iminonitroxide signal. This supports the formation of a new radical of a higher stability (no decay after two days, Fig. 3). The spectrum obtained after 2-6 days shows that this new radical, of violet color, exhibits a five-line pattern with intensity ratio 1:2:3:2:1 (Fig. 2b). From spectral simulations the HFC constant with two equivalent ¹⁴N nucleus was determined at 21 MHz, which is reminiscent of nitronyl nitroxide radicals (scheme 2, Fig. 2b, S12).³⁶ The formation of a nitronyl nitroxide radical is also supported by the appearance of a peak at M+16 in the electrospray mass spectrum after the workup (Fig. S15).³⁷

Figure 3. Evolution of the normalized maximum intensity of the EPR signal as a function of time for a 0.03 M solution of **5Eu** (solid blue squares: iminonitroxide radical; open red triangles: nitronyl nitroxide radical) and 0.05 M solution of DMPO (0.05 M, open black circles) in the presence of 10 mM H_2O_2 and 1 mM FeSO₄ in H₂O. Microwave power 1.7 mW, Freq. 9.42 GHz; Mod. Freq. 100 KHz, Amp. 0.2 mT; *T* = 293 K.

We further investigated the reactivity of the complexes with two other radical ROS: The CH₃[•] radical (formed by using the same Fenton system completed by DMSO, Fig. S22) and the superoxide radical O_2 ^{*} (KO₂ in excess, Fig. S23). In both cases the intensity of the EPR lines was weak, and showed only the features of the α -iminonitroxide radical before quenching. Hence complexes **5Eu** and **5Yb** seems to react preferentially with the OH• radical. Interestingly, both **5Eu** and **5Yb** react with H_2O_2 , affording the nitroxide radicals, in a somewhat lower yield than in the full Fenton system (Fig. S24-S25). It is indeed known that OH• can be, in some instances, generated solely from hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) activated either by hydroxylamines ³⁸ or light exposure.³⁹

These encouraging results prompted us to investigate the effect of the metal ion on the reactivity with OH^{*}. We first investigated the reactivity of the free ligand **5** within the frame of the Fenton system. No radical could be detected in this case, which is ascribed to the chelation and then "deactivation" of the iron by the macrocycle **5.** This hypothesis is corroborated by an absence of an EPR signal when the reaction is conducted with the complex Wth the presence of 1.2 equiv. of DOTA, which acts as free iron scavenger (Fig. S26). On the other hand complexes **5Eu** and **5Yb** react similarly, in terms of structure of the radicals formed. The reaction proceeds slightly faster in the case of **5Yb** (Fig. S27, Table S1). Hence the metal ion must be present in the cavity but its nature does not appear to be a key determinant in the reaction.

The potential of **5Eu** and **5Yb** to react with OH• was finally compared to that of the well-known spin trap DMPO.⁹ Under our experimental conditions the signal of the DMPO-OH• adduct decayed rapidly, to give less than 1% of the initial signal intensity after 1h (Fig. S28). In the case of **5Eu** and **5Yb** the intensity was still >95 % of the initial one after one hour (α iminonitroxide radical). Hence complexes **5Eu** and **5Yb** proved to be superior to DMPO in terms of the stability of the generated radical (Fig. 3).

 $\frac{10}{10}$ $\frac{1}{20}$ $\frac{1}{30}$ $\frac{1}{40}$ $\frac{1}{50}$ $\frac{1}{60}$ or **5Yb** (28 and 15%, respectively) and is still observed after $\frac{1}{2}$ and are consistent with a single main environment for the metals in the complexes which is preserved after reaction with the hydroxyl radical OH•. However, the intensity of Time / h one week. It is weaker than that observed upon oxidation of Finally, the final reaction products in the Fenton system were analyzed by luminescence. Upon excitation in the ligand $1\pi\pi^*$ state the metal-centred luminescence was still observed. The spectra display the same features arising from the $Eu(^5D_0)$ and Yb(²F5/2) electronic levels and similar relative corrected intensities as the starting material (Fig. S31-34). The lifetimes for **5Eu** are comparable before and after reactivity with OH• (0.57(1) and 0.58(1) ms, respectively). These virtually identical data are consistent with a single main environment for the metals in the complexes which is preserved after reaction with luminescence (Fig. S31-34) is decreased in comparison to **5Eu** the previously reported tripodal pro-radical complexes,²³⁻²⁵ but yet unambiguously detectable and consistent with early results on lanthanide-nitroxide molecular solids. ⁴⁰ It is remarkable that the stability of the radical product is much higher than in tripodal complexes, 9 which decompose above 273 K, thereby precluding their use in biological imaging. Hence the fact that a change in luminescence is observed in the present case is encouraging for the design of future ROS-responsive lanthanide complexes. Chemptron and the method on 25 November 2019. The method on 2

In conclusion we designed a dual-mode probe based on a pronitroxide lanthanide complex. It reacts with OH• to give stable lanthanide radical complexes that are detectable by EPR spectroscopy and whose metal-based luminescence (Visible or NIR) experiences a detectable quenching upon oxidation. The nitronyl nitroxide moiety, which is the radical ultimately formed in the reaction with OH^{*}, belongs to the well-known family of nitric oxide traps. The detection in the latter case is based on the conversion of the nitronyl nitroxide into an α iminonitroxide radical in the presence of NO (reactive nitrogen species RNS).^{41, 42} Alternatively we herein demonstrate that the nitronyl nitroxide radical can be the final product and the α -iminonitroxide radical is a transient species upon reaction of **5Ln** with ROS like OH• . These results reveal an unprecedented behaviour and illustrate the intricacy of the design of biological spin traps since NO is a major messenger that interacts with

ROS in living organisms to produce peroxynitrite, an inducer of cell death. 43

Acknowledgements

This work is supported by the French National Research Agency in the framework of the "Investissements d'avenir" program (ANR-15-IDEX-02), Labex ARCANE, CBH-EUR-GS (ANR-17-EURE-0003) and ANR Co-Lhanta (ANR-13-BOS08-0011-01).

Notes and references

‡ General procedure for the synthesis of the complexes: The ligand **5** was dissolved in water (10 mL) and the lanthanide salt was added to the solution. The pH was adjusted to 7 by addition of sodium hydroxide (0.5 M). The reaction mixture was stirred and heated to 50°C overnight. The reaction is stirred until the pH of the solution stopped decreasing and water is removed from the reaction by evaporation. Purification by exclusion chromatography LH-20 Sephadex gives the desired compound **5Ln** as a bright yellow powder. **5Yb**: From **5** (30 mg, 0.052 mmol) and ytterbium nitrate (24 mg, 0.052 mmol). Yield: 30.8 mg (81%). HR-MS m/z calcd for $C_{27}H_{41}O_7N_7Yb$ [M+H]⁺, 749.2455 found 749.2447. IR (cm-1): 3390, 3246, 2990, 2879, 1593, 1318, 1202, 1134, 1083, 1001, 941, 831, 799, 713. **5Eu:** From **5** (30 mg, 0.052 mmol) and europium nitrate (24 mg, 0.052 mmol). Yield: 11.0 mg (29%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D2O) δ/ ppm 12.80, 11.17, 9.81, 9.62, 9.48, 3.94, 3.59-3.21 (m), 2.25, 2.13 (d), 1.45-1.18 (m), 0.34, -0.78, -2.19, -2.95, -3.25, -3.48, -3.70, -7.10, -8.07, - 10.11, -11.63 (d), 12.23, -12.83, -13.51. HR-MS m/z calcd for C₂₇H₄₁O₇N₇Eu [M+H]⁺, 728.2277 found 728.2265. IR (cm⁻¹): 3379, 3259, 2980, 2870, 1587, 1448, 1394, 1320, 1239, 1085, 1005, 935, 906, 837, 717. Communication of the spectra of the computer on 25 November 2019. And the spectra of t

- 1. N. R. Gough, *Sci. Sign.*, 2009, **2**, eg12.
- 2. B. C. Dickinson and C. J. Chang, *Nat. Chem. Biol.*, 2011, **7**, 504-511.
- 3. H. Sies, C. Berndt and D. P. Jones, *Annu. Rev. Biochem*, 2017, **86**, 715-748.
- 4. P. Storz, *Sci. STKE*, 2006, **2006**, re3.
- 5. I. I. C. Chio and D. A. Tuveson, *Trends Mol. Med.*, 2017, **23**, 411-429.
- 6. N. Houstis, E. D. Rosen and E. S. Lander, *Nature*, 2006, **440**, 944-948.
- 7. F. Collin, *Int. J. Mol. Sci.*, 2019, **20**, 2407.
- 8. N. Panth, K. R. Paudel and K. Parajuli, *Adv. Med.*, 2016, **2016**, 12.
- 9. F. A. Villamena, in *Reactive Species Detection in Biology*, ed. F. A. Villamena, Elsevier, Boston, 2017, pp. 163-202.
- 10. X. Chen, X. Tian, I. Shin and J. Yoon, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2011, **40**, 4783-4804.
- 11. X. Wang, H. Fang, Z. Huang, W. Shang, T. Hou, A. Cheng and H. Cheng, *J. Mol. Med.*, 2013, **91**, 917-927.
- 12. J. F. Woolley, J. Stanicka and T. G. Cotter, *Trends Biochem. Sci*, 2013, **38**, 556-565.
- 13. D. Parker, R. A. Poole and F. Kielar, 2006, WO2008007089.
- 14. B. Song, G. Wang, M. Tan and J. Yuan, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2006, **128**, 13442-13450.
- 15. G.-L. Law, R. Pal, L. O. Palsson, D. Parker and K.-L. Wong, *Chem. Commun.*, 2009, 7321-7323.
- 16. A. R. Lippert, T. Gschneidtner and C. J. Chang, *Chem. Commun.*, 2010, **46**, 7510-7512.
- 17. J. Hong, Y. Zhuang, X. Ji and X. Guo, Analyst, 2011, 136, 1910 2464-2470.
- 18. M. Tropiano, N. L. Kilah, M. Morten, H. Rahman, J. J. Davis, P. D. Beer and S. Faulkner, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2011, **133**, 11847-11849.
- 19. B. K. McMahon and T. Gunnlaugsson, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2012, **134**, 10725-10728.
- 20. Y. Xiao, Z. Ye, G. Wang and J. Yuan, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2012, **51**, 2940-2946.
- 21. K. L. Peterson, M. J. Margherio, P. Doan, K. T. Wilke and V. C. Pierre, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2013, **52**, 9390-9398.
- 22. M. Abdesselem, R. Ramodiharilafy, L. Devys, T. Gacoin, A. Alexandrou and C. I. Bouzigues, *Nanoscale*, 2017, **9**, 656- 665.
- 23. J. K. Molloy, O. Jarjayes, C. Philouze, L. Fedele, D. Imbert and F. Thomas, *Chem. Commun.*, 2017, **53**, 605-608.
- 24. J. K. Molloy, L. Fedele, O. Jarjayes, C. Philouze, D. Imbert and F. Thomas, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2018, **483**, 609-617.
- 25. J. K. Molloy, C. Philouze, L. Fedele, D. Imbert, O. Jarjayes and F. Thomas, *Dalton Trans.*, 2018, **47**, 10742-10751.
- 26. A. J. Amoroso and S. J. A. Pope, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2015, **44**, 4723-4742.
- 27. S. Cuihong, Y. Zhiqiang, W. Guilan, Y. Jingli and G. Yafeng, *Chem. – Eur. J.*, 2010, **16**, 6464-6472.
- 28. S. Csongor, P. Elias, I. N. O. and B. K. Eszter, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2013, **19**, 3099-3109.
- 29. J. Wu, Y. Yang, L. Zhang, H. Wang, M. Yang and J. Yuan, *J. Mat. Chem. B*, 2017, **5**, 2322-2329.
- 30. X. Liu, X. S. Huang, N. Sin, B. L. Venables and V. Roongta, *Magn. Reson. Chem.*, 2010, **48**, 873-876.
- 31. Chemical shifts relative to ammonia. The nitrones are expected to exhibit much larger chemical shifts.
- 32. R. M. Supkowski and W. D. Horroks, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2002, **340**, 44-48.
- 33. A response was observed in relaxivity for the analogous gadolinium complex, which is consistent with the presence of one exchangeable water molecule in the close vicinity of the metal center.
- 34. J. P. Kehrer, *Toxicology*, 2000, **149**, 43-50.
- 35. I. Fidan, E. Önal, Y. Yerli, D. Luneau, V. Ahsen and C. Hirel, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2016, **55**, 11447-11453.
- 36. E. F. Ullman, J. H. Osiecki, D. G. B. Boocock and R. Darcy, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1972, **94**, 7049-7059.
- 37. The reaction was also examined at physiological pH in a buffered medium (Tris-HCl, pH 7). The same radicals were generated within essentially the same time frame.
- 38. L. Chen, X. Li, J. Zhang, J. Fang, Y. Huang, P. Wang and J. Ma, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 2015, **49**, 10373-10379.
- 39. J. H. Baxendale and J. A. Wilson, *Trans. Faraday Soc.*, 1957, **53**, 344-356.
- 40. G. Bussière, R. Beaulac, H. Bélisle, C. Lescop, D. Luneau, P. Rey and C. Reber, in *Transition Metal and Rare Earth Compounds: Excited States, Transitions, Interactions III*, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2004, DOI: 10.1007/b96861, pp. 97-118.
- 41. U. Samuni, Y. Samuni and S. Goldstein, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2010, **132**, 8428-8432.
- 42. J. Wang, C. He, P. Wu, J. Wang and C. Duan, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2011, **133**, 12402-12405.
- 43. C. Szabó, H. Ischiropoulos and R. Radi, *Nat. Rev. Drug Disc.*, 2007, **6**, 662-680.

Journal Name COMMUNICATION

82x37mm (300 x 300 DPI)